



Promoting Responsible Sun Care and Sun Burn Prevention

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**Statement of the Indoor Tanning Association
Before the Committee on Public Health
Senate Bill 263
March 1, 2010**

The Indoor Tanning Association is a trade organization representing manufacturers and suppliers of indoor tanning equipment as well as indoor tanning salons nationwide. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments in regard to Senate Bill 263, *An Act Requiring Tanning Facilities to Provide Notification of the Health Risks Associated with the Use of Tanning Devices*.

Indoor tanning salons provide a legal and safe service that is desired by consumers in Connecticut and elsewhere.

We have a presence in Connecticut that should be noted: 460 tanning salons in Connecticut employ approximately 1,680 people. Two companies manufacture the lamps used in tanning beds worldwide: Light Sources, which employs approximately 400 people in Orange area, and Voltarc Technologies in Waterbury, which employs 300 people. Future Industries, a major national distributor of indoor tanning products, employs 40 people at its Milford facility.

These statistics don't mean much if the tanning process isn't safe. *It is safe*. Our member salons work with customers day-in and day-out to ensure that their tanning is done safely and in moderation. Our "Smart Tan Educational Program" is an industry model for providing detailed information to our customers.

Please know that ITA would like to support SB 286—but we cannot do so in its current form. There are several issues that we would cite regarding the bill before you today.

SB 263 would require a warning sign to be displayed on the premise when federal rules already require that.

SB 263 would require consumers to sign a statement on safety issues despite the fact our facilities already require that.

SB 263 would give local health authorities final authority over content of both the warning sign and written statement. *We realize this is done to avoid a fiscal note by DPH*. But, it has enormous ramifications. Owners of facilities in multiple towns could end up having to write up different warning signs depending on the whims or insistence of local officials. This is not a good public policy.

Again, safe tanning is our primary goal with our customers. As drafted, SB 263 will not really help in this regard. What it will do is scare and confuse our customers while adding to our cost of doing business in the state.

ITA worked closely with your committee in the 2006 session to develop legislation that implemented a parental consent law for individuals under 16 years of age who wish to sun tan. This legislation (PA 06-195) was enacted and our member salons have implemented it effectively. We mention this simply to reiterate that ITA has a track

record of working with you, not against you, on key public health issues relating to indoor sun tanning. We stand ready to do so again this session with regard to SB 263.

For further information on this issue, please feel free to contact John Overstreet of the Indoor Tanning Association at (888) 377-0477.